



## **The Debate is Over – Secondhand Smoke Kills**

Secondhand tobacco smoke causes lung cancer, heart disease, sudden infant death syndrome, low-birth-weight, asthma, bronchitis and other serious illnesses. It is responsible for tens of thousands of U.S. deaths annually. The Surgeon General recently declared that there is no scientific debate whether secondhand tobacco smoke causes serious diseases, and that the only way to protect the public is to eliminate exposure.<sup>1</sup>

- Hundreds of U.S. cities and counties have enacted clean indoor air laws, as have Ireland, England (effective 2007), Scotland, Uruguay, Norway, New Zealand, Sweden and Italy.<sup>2</sup>
- Montana is one of 14 states (as well as Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico) that have passed comprehensive, 100% smokefree laws.<sup>2</sup>

## **On the Economy...**

- Research disproves the notion that smokefree laws hurt business.<sup>3</sup>
- Medical costs associated with second-hand smoke are estimated to be \$5 billion nationwide. An additional \$4.6 billion in lost wages occurs.<sup>4</sup>

General Office... **1.866.787.5247**  
Web site... **www.tobaccofree.mt.gov**  
e-mail... **infotobaccofree@mt.gov**  
Fact sheet updated... **9/11/06**

# **Montana's Clean Indoor Air Act *and You***

***Montanans have the right to breathe smokefree air.***

## **The Law**

### ➤ **Montana's statewide clean indoor air law prohibits smoking in enclosed public places.**

- The Montana legislature passed the Clean Indoor Air Act in 2005; limited exceptions are provided until October 2009.
- Enclosed public place means *any* public indoor area, room, or vehicle or indoor workplace including:
  - Restaurants;
  - Stores;
  - Public school property;
  - Public and private office buildings;
  - Trains, buses, and other forms of public transportation;
  - Health-care facilities;
  - Auditoriums, arenas, meeting rooms, and other assembly facilities;
  - Family or group day-care homes;
  - Adult foster care homes; and
  - Community colleges and state university buildings, including dormitories.

### ➤ **Limited exceptions until October 2009:**

- A temporary exception is available to bars and casinos, giving them until October 1, 2009, to go completely smokefree. Even with an exception, bars and casinos must keep minors out of designated smoking areas and prevent smoke from drifting into non-smoking areas.

#### Sources:

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*. 2006.
2. Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids website. <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/reports/shs/>
3. Scollo M, et al, "Review of the quality of studies on the economic effects of smoke-free policies on the hospitality industry", *Tobacco Control* (2003); 12:13-20.
4. *The Economic Impacts of Smoke-Free Environments*. Smoke-Free Environments Law Project. Study conducted by the Society of Actuaries. Authored by Donald Behan, Michael Eriksen and Yijia Lin. August 2005.